

# 384th BOMB GROUP INC.

P.O. Box 1021-A  
Rahway, NJ 07065



## 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION



### LAST NOTICE

JUNE 1992



544th



545th



546th



547th

“KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD”



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 10th-13th, 1992

It was 50 Years ago on December 1, 1942 that the 384th Bombardment Group (H) was activated. . . the early days of Wendover seem so far away. . . those Salt Flats of Utah. Who can forget them??? Then we went to Sioux City, Iowa where we were equipped with brand new B-17s', the Flying Fortress. We then began to prepare for our movement to England to become part of the 8th Air Force. . . the 41st Combat Wing. The ground Echelon sailed on May 27, 1943 from New York on the Queen Elizabeth. They arrived at Greenock on June 3rd and then travelled by train and lorry to Grafton Underwood where the Group's Aircraft had already arrived at Station 106 on May 27, 1943.

The initial strength of the Group at that time was 42 Aircraft. . . nine to each of the four Squadrons. . . the 544th, 545th, 546th, and the 547th. The remaining six Fortresses were spares. The B-17s' were flown over the Atlantic by the Squadron and Group Staff. One Aircraft ditched in the Atlantic and another was lost in a collision when approaching to land at Grafton-Underwood after a training flight.

A short period was allowed for the modification of the Aircraft for combat and for the Crews to be familiarized with the flying procedures in England. . . also to get familiar with combat conditions in Europe. Key personnel flew a combat mission with the 303rd Bombardment Group at Molesworth on June 13, 1943 to gain first hand experience.

Our operations started on June 22, 1943 and the rest is History. After only a month away from our final training in the United States we had half a dozen missions under our belt. . . tough missions that might have shaken a less determined Group. Those first weeks of combat gave the 384th the traditions that remained with us throughout the scores of missions that followed. . . . .

A Crew of a ditched Fortress in the North Sea, after 41 hours adrift, returned to the Base after being rescued. The Pilot had one simple statement for the interrogators. . . 'WE FLEW THE COURSE AS BRIEFED'.

Another tradition grew out of the Group's second mission. Major Seldon L. McMillen, the Group's Deputy Commander, was shot down on the Hamburg mission. He sent us a slogan from a Prisoner of War Camp that was to guide the 384th BG in the more fortunate months to come. It was the first voice heard from the wilderness of our lost Aircraft. . . the slogan was. . . 'KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD'. . . . .

We have kept the Show on the Road. . . now 50 Years later we will have our 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION. We have lost a number of 384thers since we flew that first mission so many years ago, both Ground and Air Crew. Those of us who are still around do our best to. . . 'KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD'.

We are hoping for a good turn out for this very SPECIAL REUNION as it will be the GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the BIRTH of the 384TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H). An event like this happens only once in a lifetime, in view of this, do not miss the opportunity to attend the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION, which is scheduled for September 10-13, 1992 at Newport Beach/Irvine, California.

Lloyd Whitlow (CA), who is Chairman of the Reunion, and his fine Reunion Committee and the Board of Directors have worked very hard and have devoted a lot of their time to make the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION one of our BEST! Another point to remember, each Committee Member, and the Members from the Board of Directors volunteer their services and they pay for their travel, hotels, etc. at their own expense. This is real dedication to your Organization and to show your appreciation for this exemplary service, one should make every effort to attend the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION.

Now you ask, why Newport Beach, California. . . because the members of the 384th BG who attended the 12th Reunion at Wichita, Kansas voted for this site during the Business Meeting. Nashville, Tennessee came in second and San Diego, California third. The members with their vote, always have the final say as to where the Reunions shall be held.

## HOTEL . . .

To accommodate our Reunions we need a hotel that has adequate facilities to handle all of our functions, etc. The other factors are the location and naturally a reasonable room rate. . .

Our Hotel for the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION will be the Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman, Irvine, California, located in Koll Center, just off of I-405 Freeway. . . only a short distance from the **John Wayne/Orange County Airport** . . . only 15 minutes from the Pacific Ocean. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Airport . . . all Major Airlines serve the Airport.

The Marriott Hotel has 485 Guest Rooms; Restaurants and Lounges; Heated Indoor/Outdoor Swimming Pool; Health Club; 4 Tennis Courts, lighted for night play; and Golf available at a nearby 18 Hole Golf Course. They have 27 Meeting Rooms, which gives us a nice choice for our Registration Room and Memorabilia Room and Lounge. The Grand Ballroom will seat 900 people for a Dinner Dance.

The Room Rate for the Marriott Hotel will be \$62.00, plus tax, for a Single or a Double Room. The hotel fills our needs, the Annual Board of Directors Meeting was recently held at the Marriott and all agreed that we came up with an excellent choice for the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION Hotel. There are also many restaurants near the hotel. . . the location is excellent!

REMEMBER, you must make your own Hotel Reservations. After you mail us your 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION Registration Form and Deposit, we will send you the Hotel Room Registration Card. . . PLEASE MAIL THE HOTEL REGISTRATION CARD to the Irvine Marriott Hotel.

## PROGRAM . . .

We have learned from our past Reunions that we must have a Program. Too many people feel they are being left out if we don't. Many of our members have forgotten some of their old comrades, or were never with the Group long enough to get acquainted. . . or they were shot down on an early mission. So to make sure that no one is left out, we now have a Program that includes everyone.



The Program for the  
50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION . . .

**Thursday - Sept. 10th**

Check-In - Marriott Hotel Lobby		All Day	
Registration	10:00 AM	-	5:00 PM
Memorabilia Room & Lounge	12:00 Noon	-	6:00 PM
Cocktails & Poolside Buffet	7:00 PM	-	10:00 PM

**Friday - Sept. 11th**

Coffee & Danish	7:30 AM	-	9:00 AM
Optional Tours - Departures	9:00 AM		
Memorabilia Room and Lounge	9:00 AM	-	4:00 PM
Registration	2:00 PM	-	4:00 PM
Assemble in Marriott Hotel Lobby	6:00 PM		
Coaches Depart for Balboa Pavilion	6:30 PM		
Cocktail Cruise - Catalina Flyer	7:00 PM	-	9:00 PM
Buffet Dinner - Balboa Pavilion	9:00 PM	-	11:00 PM
Coaches Depart for Marriott Hotel	11:30 PM		

**Saturday - Sept. 12th**

Coffee & Danish	8:00 AM	-	9:00 AM
Business Meeting	9:00 AM	-	12:00 Noon
Ladies Optional Tour	9:00 AM	-	2:00 PM
Memorabilia Room & Lounge	12:00 Noon	-	5:00 PM
POW & Evadee Meeting	2:00 PM	-	3:00 PM
Host Cocktail Party	7:00 PM	-	8:00 PM
Dinner Dance	8:00 PM	-	11:59 PM

**Sunday - Sept. 13th**

Father Billy Mass	8:00 AM	-	9:00 AM
Breakfast	9:00 AM	-	10:30 AM
Closing Ceremony	10:30 AM	-	11:00 AM
Check-Out - Marriott Hotel Lobby		All Afternoon	

There will be Entertainment on Thursday and Friday evening. We have booked an excellent Orchestra for the Saturday Dinner Dance, The Roland Furman Orchestra. The members from the Board of Directors had the opportunity to hear and dance to this Band on February 14, 1992 at Lloyd and Phyllis Whitlow's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The Cocktail Cruise will be on the Balboa Pavilion Catalina Flyer, a 500 Passenger Boat, the cruise will be on Balboa Bay, so the waters will be smooth!!!

The Optional Tour for Friday is not included as part of the Reunion Package. If you elect to take the Tour you will pay for it during Registration at the Tour Desk. This will also apply for the Optional Ladies Tour for Saturday.

The Optional Tour scheduled for Friday:

1. A Sightseeing Tour of the Beach Cities, etc. and San Juan Capistrano Mission.

The Optional Tour for the Ladies on Saturday:

1. Fashion Island and Rogers Gardens

So we will have some idea as to the number of people who will desire to take these Tours, please check the appropriate box on the back of the Registration Form and list the number of people in your party.

**TRAVEL AND TOURISM . . .**

To help you with your TRAVEL PLANS, and other ACTIVITIES, we have made arrangements with, "WORLD TRAVEL AGENCY", 18201 Von Karman, Suite 660, Irvine, California 92715. Local Telephone Number: (714) 660-1313. FAX Number: (714) 660-0219. Long Distance Telephone Number: 1-800-422-0511.

We strongly urge you to take advantage of their services as they can do as well, or possibly better than your Local Travel Agency. They have arranged for two Official Airlines for our 50th Anniversary Reunion, these are, United Airlines and American Airlines. Both serve the John Wayne/Orange County Airport and these two Airlines will give us complete coverage of the U.S.A. For your convenience they have a Toll Free "800" telephone number, which makes it as easy as contacting your Local Travel Agency. The real BIG PLUS for your using their services is their location, which is directly across the street from the Marriott Hotel. This will be a real convenience if you wish to, or are required to make a change in your Travel Itinerary, or if you have a problem, it will be a very simple matter to just cross the street to take care of any problems or changes. To help your Organization, PLEASE forgo using your favorite Travel Agency and use, "WORLD TRAVEL" for this Reunion . . .

September 10th-13th, 1992 are ideal dates for the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION, these dates were selected because Vacation Time is over, and school has reconvened. There are more attractions per square mile in California than in most of the other States, and at this time of the year the California weather is at its best! To help you enjoy some of these attractions, "World Travel" has made arrangements for many PRE/POST REUNION TRIPS for your enjoyment. The following are just a few of the many Trips available:

- 4 Night Cruise - Viking Serenade Cruise Ship
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- San Diego, California
- San Francisco, California
- Heart Castle, San Simeon, California
- Yosemite National Park, California
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Laughlin, Nevada

The following are some of the Local Attractions you can enjoy:

- Disneyland
- Knotts Berry Farm
- Universal Tours
- \*Deep Sea Fishing - Davey Jones Locker
- \*Catalina Island - Balboa Pavilion Catalina Flyer

All of these attractions, plus many others, are available through, "WORLD TRAVEL". They will provide you with all of the information, costs, etc., and most trips can be altered in duration to meet individual requirements.

\*These two attractions are available through the Balboa Pavilion, owned by our fellow 384ther, Phil Tozer.

Start making your plans to enjoy these many attractions, either prior to, or following the 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION.

**REGISTRATION FORM AND DEPOSIT . . . . .**

A Registration Form is included with this Newsletter. It would be greatly appreciated if you would fill out and return the Registration Form immediately. . . remember a \$50.00 per person Deposit must accompany each Registration Form for your registration to be considered confirmed. PLEASE help your Reunion Committee by mailing Fred Nowosad the Registration Form and your Deposit as soon as possible and no later than August 1, 1992.



## ASSIGNED TABLE SEATING . . .

For both the Friday evening Buffet and for the Saturday evening Dinner Dance there will be assigned seating. A Table Reservation Form is included with this Newsletter with instruction on the back of the Form telling you how to fill it out. To assure you are assigned a Group Table you must fill out and return the Form. There will be a deadline for the return of the Form, we must receive the Table Reservation Form prior to August 1, 1992. People not requesting a Group Table will be assigned a Table based upon the date their Registration Form was received. Based upon this, it would be to a person's advantage to make sure they send in both the Registration Form, and/or the Table Reservation Form as quickly as possible.

## POW's . . .

Help needed! Clint Orean is trying to compile a list of the 384thers who were POW's while with the 384th BG. He needs to receive as many names as possible so he can have them for the 50th Anniversary Reunion. Some of you may have already given him your name, but to make sure he has everyone, send him your name again! Please note the Camp you were in and any other 384thers that were in your Camp. Mail this information to:

Clint Orean, Historian  
WML Rt. 2, Box 4417  
Show Low, Arizona 85901

## MEMORABILIA ROOM . . .

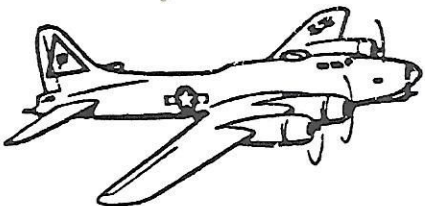
Don't forget our Nostalgia Room . . . bring pictures, books, or any other memorabilia that you may have . . . you will get a lot of enjoyment looking over these old mementos and talking over the old days. PLEASE remember to pick up your stuff before you leave. A few left their mementos behind after the Reunion at Wichita, Kansas.

## PRICE . . .

It takes money to put on any kind of an affair . . . there are a lot of hidden costs a person doesn't think about. The cost per person for the 50th Anniversary Reunion will be \$175.00 . . . this does not include your hotel room. The \$175.00 includes your Registration Fee.

## 384th BOMB GROUP INC.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
P.O. Box 1021-A  
Rahway, NJ 07065



L/C. Wallace A. Storey  
118 Starline Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

That's about it! We have finalized the Program and we are sure that you will enjoy every minute of it! Again a reminder, for the Dinner Dance all seats will be assigned. We have found from experience that by doing this there will be no hard feelings as to who will be sitting with whom. If you are interested with sitting with your Crew or with a Special Group, please fill out the Table Reservation Form and mail it to Lloyd Whitlow (CA). His address is on the Table Reservation Form. So it is up to you now! Talk it over with your old buddies and/or Crew . . . sign and fill out the Registration Form and return it with your Deposit to Fred Nowosad, his address is on the Form. Don't procrastinate, or set the Reunion material to one side to do tomorrow, DO IT NOW! TODAY! This will be a big help and will lighten the work load of the Reunion Committee!

## PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINES . . .

ONCE AGAIN, A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY only happens once in a lifetime, there will be no tomorrow! With your participation we can make this the BIGGEST, THE BEST, with the LARGEST ATTENDANCE that we have ever had for one of our Reunions. So let us continue to . . .

'KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD'

SEE YOU IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA,  
SEPTEMBER 10TH-13TH, 1992.

## DIRECTIONS

The Marriott Hotel is located at 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California. If you are arriving to the 50th Anniversary Reunion by automobile you will find there is no Off-Ramp from the San Diego Freeway (I-405) for Von Karman.

To get to the Marriott Hotel, take either the San Diego Freeway Jamboree Road Off-Ramp and proceed south on Jamboree Road to Michelson Drive. At Michelson Drive, turn right and proceed to Von Karman, at Von Karman again turn right and proceed to the first Electric Signal, at the Signal turn right into Koll Center, and then a quick left turn to the Marriott Hotel. Or, take the San Diego Freeway MacArthur Boulevard Off-Ramp and proceed south by the John Wayne/Orange County Airport Terminal to Michelson Drive. At Michelson Drive turn left and proceed to Von Karman Avenue, at Von Karman turn left and proceed to the first Electric Signal, at the Signal turn right into the Koll Center, then a quick left turn to the Marriott Hotel.

Things have quieted down in Los Angeles . . . our Reunion is being held at least 100 miles from Los Angeles in a very quiet section of California . . . . We recommend if you are flying to the Reunion, make your reservation to the John Wayne/Orange County Airport. It is only 15 minutes from the Marriott Hotel and they provide limousine service . . . Most flights now go into the John Wayne/Orange County Airport . . .

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**"Keep the Show on the Road" . . .**